

**Claims**

*Sub A5*

5 1. Crossflow ceramic membrane filtering unit having within a housing one or more filtering elements partly coated with a filtering membrane, **characterised** by the joints between the filtering elements and between the filtering elements and the housing being sealed by means of a gasket or a gasket system comprising an internal intermediate space.

10 2. Membrane filtering unit according to claim 1, **characterised** by the intermediate space being connected to the outside of the filtering unit.

15 3. Membrane filtering unit according to claim 1 or 2, **characterised** by having a sensor indicating fluid leaking into the intermediate space.

20 4. Ceramic membrane filtering unit according to any claim 1-3, comprising one or more plate-shaped filtering elements having apertures, said elements being joined together and to the housing, said apertures thereby forming a tight, unitary conduit for permeate removal and the outer surface of the elements being essentially free to receive material to be filtered, **characterised** by the plate-shaped elements being fitted to each other and to the housing by means of at least two gaskets, and the central zones of the elements being impermeable so as to form spaces delimited by the gaskets and the impermeable surfaces, and said spaces being interconnected by apertures in the elements, said apertures having impermeable surfaces.

25 5. Ceramic membrane filtering unit according to any claim 1-3, comprising at least one tubular filtering element having at least one channel internally coated with a filtering membrane.

30 6. Method for sealing a ceramic crossflow membrane filtering unit comprising one or more filtering elements within a housing, said elements being partly coated with a filtering membrane, **characterised** by sealing the joints between the elements and between the elements and the housing by a gasket or a gasket system comprising an internal space connected to the outside.

10030230-010500  
2007-07-05

7. The use of a filtering unit according to claim 1 or a method according to claim 8 in the filtration, preferably ultrafiltration, of water.

add AF